

# **FIFRA Special Project Grant, Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Stewardship Program: 2005 Requests for Proposals**

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Stewardship Program is intended to help strengthen industry compliance with the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) and minimize worker exposure to pesticides. These grants will provide support for education, training, monitoring, or demonstrations that promote stewardship of pesticide safety rules, regulations and procedures. The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for projects which are unique and innovative, and that address the requirements of the Federal WPS and related methods of protecting agricultural workers from pesticide exposure within a specific commodity, group of commodities or geographic area. This assistance will be awarded through the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20.

## **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 66.716**

### **Important Dates:**

- January 3, 2005 – Solicitation posted on EPA Web site.
- March 4, 2005 – Proposals must be received by close of business.
- April 4, 2005 – funding decisions announced.
- September 30, 2005 – Funding for selected projects will be available.

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# **FIFRA Special Project Grant, Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Stewardship Program: 2005 Requests for Proposals**

## **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Stewardship Program is intended to help strengthen industry compliance with the WPS and minimize worker exposure to pesticides. These grants will provide support for education, training, monitoring, demonstrations or studies that promote stewardship of pesticide safety rules, regulations and procedures. The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for projects which are unique and innovative, and that address the requirements of the Federal WPS and related methods of protecting agricultural workers from pesticide exposure within a specific commodity, group of commodities or geographic area. In this context, “stewardship” refers to the concept of responsible management and the development of institutions, information, and strategies to assure protection of workers into the future.

Possible approaches to promoting stewardship of the WPS could include, but are not limited to, a combination of field level compliance assistance, pesticide safety training, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), development and/or dissemination of educational materials, self-assessments, promotion of model training programs, etc. Topics could range from general requirements of the WPS to specific topics such as early entry requirements, potential acute or chronic effects of pesticide exposure (including residue exposure), potential health effects of commonly used pesticides, use of engineering controls to minimize exposure, or others.

### **Background on the WPS**

EPA's Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a Federal regulation aimed at reducing the risk of pesticide poisonings and injuries among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. The WPS offers protections to over three and a half million people who work with pesticides at over 560,000 workplaces nationwide. The WPS contains requirements for pesticide safety training, notification of pesticide applications, use of personal protective equipment, restricted entry intervals following pesticide application, decontamination supplies, and emergency medical assistance. This grant program is part of EPA Region 9's continuing commitment to improving pesticide worker safety programs. For more background information on the WPS, visit the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/amendmnt.htm>

## **II. Award Information**

This is an EPA Region 9 initiative, not a National EPA Grant program. EPA Region 9 Pesticide Program intends to award an estimated \$100,000 for grant awards ranging in size from \$30,000 up to \$50,000 per project. From the proposals received, EPA estimates that 2 to 3 projects may be selected. Costs incurred prior to the grant award will not be reimbursed. Funding for selected projects will be available September 30, 2005.

Recipients of 2005 funding will have up to two years to complete the project. For a complete

list of EPA funding opportunities (posting of Requests for Proposals and grant programs), please visit <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/> or <http://www.epa.gov/region09/funding/index.html>

### **III. Eligibility Information**

State agencies, Tribes, local governments, universities, and non-profit organizations (including not-for-profit commodity groups or farmers' groups) are eligible to submit proposals for the WPS Stewardship grant under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20. For-profit organizations are not eligible.

The projects must be located in EPA Region 9, which includes California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii or in the Pacific Trust Islands. Both new and existing projects will be considered. No matching funds are required, however applicants are strongly encouraged to leverage funds from other sources. Applicants may provide a non-federal cash or in-kind match to indicate the organization's commitment to completing the project.

Please note: Research is ineligible for funding, as are other ineligible costs outlined in 40 CFR Parts 30 and 31. Most surveys conducted using Federal grant funds must be approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

### **IV. Application and Submission Information**

Proposals must contain the following information and adhere to the page limits listed below. It is recommended that confidential information not be included in the proposal.

1. Summary (maximum one page): Include name of project, point of contact (Individual and Organization Name, Address, Phone Number, Fax Number, E-mail Address), and the amount of federal funding requested. Note whether it is continuation of an ongoing project, a previously EPA funded project or a new project (if previously funded by EPA, provide the number and status of the current grant or cooperative agreement).
2. Project description and Work plan (maximum three pages): This section should include a work plan that is realistic and appropriate to achieving identified objectives within the proposed budget. Include a brief background on the main issues, specific objectives, major activities, where the project will take place, and expected outcomes and deliverables. This section should also include a discussion of a communication plan for distributing the project results to interested parties, if applicable (see Section IV for further discussion).
3. Performance measures. The workplan should include performance measures that demonstrate the progress or results of the project (see Section IV for further discussion).
4. Budget (maximum one page). Submit a general budget proposed to support project activities. Include information on other funding sources, if any.
5. Qualifications and Support (maximum four pages). Include the qualifications and background on the main people or organizations involved as an attachment. Include letters of

support from agricultural employers or other collaborators, specifying their contribution to the project.

**Applicants must submit a hard copy of the proposal along with an electronic version (on disc or email) to:**

Katy Wilcoxon, WPS Program Manager  
Pesticides Office  
U.S. EPA Region 9 (CMD-5)  
75 Hawthorne St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**All proposals must be received by close of business on March 4, 2005. *Proposals postmarked after this date will not be reviewed.***

## **V. Application Review Information**

EPA will award WPS Stewardship grants on a competitive basis. All proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Importance of the project in relation to WPS: The proposal should explain how the project furthers the goal of the WPS to improve industry compliance with the worker protection standards (or equivalent state regulations) and minimize worker exposure to pesticides. The importance of the project in relation to a particular commodity, group of commodities or geographic region should be clear. Proposals should define the need, such as high exposure potential because of labor demands or pesticides used, or documented illnesses or known compliance issues within the targeted area or commodity group.
2. Clearly stated objectives and activities: Proposal should state the project goals and specific activities. Include how the activities will lead to adoption of new practices or increased compliance with WPS by the regulated community (growers, farm labor contractors, commercial pesticide applicators, or other agricultural employers).
3. Extent of participation of the regulated community: Participation of the regulated community (growers, farm labor contractors, commercial pesticide applicators, or other agricultural employers) will be critical to the successful project. Proposals should include partnerships and letters or other indication of support to assist reviewers in determining strength of partnership and extent of participation of regulated community.
4. Performance measures: Proposals will need to include an explanation of how the effectiveness of the project will be evaluated. Performance measures must go beyond attendance numbers or other activity measures. Project results may be linked to improvements in WPS compliance, pesticide illness or injury/worker safety records, implementation of improved worker safety practices or other methods, and may include environmental monitoring or other measurements.

5. Special emphasis: Proposals submitted by eligible applicants with access to people responsible for compliance with the worker safety regulations, and proposals that maximize resources for ‘on-the-ground’ activities over administrative costs will receive extra points.

## **VI. Award Administration Information**

Final selection will be made by the Associate Director for Agriculture, Cross Media Division, EPA Region 9. Applicants will be notified of decisions in April 2005.

Proposals that are selected for funding will be requested to submit a formal application for Federal funding. Receipt of an application kit is not a guarantee of funding. Deadlines must be met and the work plan must be approved by the EPA Project Officer for funding to occur.

### **Reporting requirements**

The selected grant recipients will be asked to complete a midyear progress report and a final report at the end of the grant period. Reports should describe project activities, status of the objective and activities in the workplan, and a statement of expenses. A Financial Status Report will be due with the final report and must accurately account for all federal funds expended and identify appropriate use of federal funds.

**Disputes:** Procedures at 40 CFR 30.63 and 40 CFR 31.70 will apply.

### **Confidentiality**

Applicants must clearly mark information they consider confidential and EPA will make confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency Regulations at 40 CFR, Part 2, Subpart B.

### **Disclaimer**

EPA Reserves the right to reject all proposals and to not make any awards.

## **VII. Agency Contact**

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Katy Wilcoxen, EPA Region 9 WPS Program Manager at (415) 947-4205 or email: [wilcoxen.katy@epa.gov](mailto:wilcoxen.katy@epa.gov).